Seeking Common Ground

With Hugh Ross

Hugh Ross is an astrophysicist[1] who discovered the authenticity of the Bible through science and became a Christian.

In 1986, he founded Reasons to Believe, aiming to demonstrate the compatibility of science and Christianity. He has authored numerous books, including *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is*, the *Improbable Planet*, and *The Creator and The Cosmos*. He has contributed to various journals and blogs.

However, Dr. Ross is controversial as he believes in an Old Earth and that Noah's Flood was a regional, not local, and a world-wide, but not global, flood. He views the flood as God's divine judgment upon all humans (except for Noah and his family) and their domesticated animals. He bases his findings on scientific evidence and the literal text of the Bible, found not only in Genesis, but other portions of scripture as well. He has documented his thesis in his most recent book, *Noah's Flood Revisited*.

On October 6, 2025, the *Defend Your Faith* team interviewed Dr. Ross about his new book. *Noah's Flood Revisited*, which can be found on YouTube by searching "Noah's Flood Revisited Hugh Ross".

The Impact of Interviewing Dr. Hugh Ross

For nearly 15 years, astrophysicist Hugh Ross has been planning to write a book on Noah's Flood. *Noah's Flood Revisited* appears to be the first book written by a scientist of his caliber which correlates Biblical interpretation of the flood with known science. The book has been in peer review for five years and was finally released on Oct. 7, 2025.

Incredibly, Dr. Ross allowed us to be the first people to interview him on what is arguably the pinnacle of his life's work! Since Dr. Ross has been interviewed on major media outlets in the past, it is very surprising that he allowed us to interview him first. Soli Deo Gloria!

Currently, *Noah's Flood Revisited* ranks first in new releases in Amazon's Science and Religion category. It ranks eighth in cumulative best sellers in this category (a measure incorporating previous releases).

Possible Points of Common Ground

Here are some facts about Hugh Ross which the Christian apologist can look to for possible common ground:

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[1] Dr. Ross obtained his B.Sc. in Physics from the University of British Columbia (1967)' and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Toronto (1973). He also performed postdoctoral research worked at Caltech from 1973 to 1978, focusing on quasars and galaxies.

- He thought through his faith, prayed a prayer for forgiveness, and received Jesus Christ.
- He has a specific testimony of his conversion experience (including signing his name in the back of a Gideon bible indicating that he had received the Lord).
- He is very Bible knowledgeable, and he advocates for a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- He believes:
  - that the Bible is literally true.
  - that the Bible and the book of nature reveal God.
  - that the Bible can be tested through science.
  - that science confirms, rather than contradicts, the Bible.
  - that the Universe was created *ex nihilo*, meaning from or out of nothing.
  - that the Genesis account of creation and of the Great Flood is true and supported by science
  - that the flood was divinely created to eliminate all corrupted humanity and its animals, while saving eight righteous people to preserve the human species from the pervasive reprobate wickedness that would have inevitably led to widespread murder and destruction of the entire species.
  - that there has only been one world-wide flood that has never been repeated in global history.

Where Hugh Ross is controversial:

He believes . . .

- The age of the Universe is approximately 14.5 billion years ago.
- The scope of the flood was only what was needed to destroy all reprobate humanity and their domesticated animals (but not animals outside of the flood zone).
- When the rain and the water from the earth's crust came up to flood the earth, there would have been an insufficient amount or water to inundate the entire globe, but not a large region where all humanity was dwelling at the time.
- The hypothesis that radiometric decay rates—if increased by a factor of about a billion times during a large portion of the Genesis flood—can explain the plate tectonics needed to create the earth's mountains during the short time of the flood event (versus a much longer time for mountain formation) is contradicted by the Bible.
- The Bible teaches that the physical laws and constants God put into effect "in the beginning" have not changed. Therefore, the claim of vastly accelerated radiometric decay rates during Noah's flood would be ruled out. Ross relies principally on Jeremiah 33:25 "Thus says the Lord: 'If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances [fixed ordering] of heaven and earth . . ."

- Ross also asserts that Romans 8:18-23[2] and Ecclesiastes 1 and 3 support the notion of a constant (not a radically sudden) state of decay of the earth and on the earth.
- Archeological evidence, particularly carbon dating of roasted food, establishes that the Great Migration referenced in Genesis 11:1-9 occurred some 45,000 +/- 5,000 years ago, placing the Great Flood earlier than that.

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[2] [18] For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; [21] because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. [23] Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.